

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MASONI, Bruno

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EXAMINER: Chang, R. K.

TITLE: MUFFLER SHELL FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE*

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 3 (canceled).

4. (new) A muffler shell for a motor vehicle comprising:

a single strip of metal rolled upon itself in a generally spiral pattern so as to form a tube, said single strip of metal having an edge line of a spiral pattern extending along a length of said tube, said edge line extending at an acute angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of said tube, said tube having an inlet at one end and an outlet at an opposite end thereof, each of said inlet and said outlet having a smaller diameter than a diameter of said tube between said inlet and said outlet, said inlet and said outlet being mechanically deformed by flospinning into said smaller diameter; and

a weld line affixed to said edge line so as to fix said edge line to an adjacent or underlying surface of said single strip of metal, said weld line sealing an interior of said tube.